

Key Disaster Resource Agencies

West Virginia Office of Emergency Services (WVOES)

Capitol Complex Building 1, Room EB-80, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0360
(304) 558-5380

The West Virginia Office of Emergency Services (WVOES) is the coordinating agency for emergency services in the State. This includes the four phases of emergency operations known as mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. These activities meet the demands of all hazards faced by the State. In addition to responding to disaster events, the three principal activities of WVOES are the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Integrated Flood Observing and Warning System (IFLOWS) and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). IFLOWS goal is to provide better warning of flooding, especially on the upper portions of small streams. Information from automated, radio-reporting rain gages is available to counties participating in the system and to the National Weather Service. This allows the proper response activities, e.g., warning and/or evacuation, to be initiated as soon as possible.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA Region III
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor 615, Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P \A 19106-4404
(215) 931-5614

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the lead federal agency in dealing with a disaster. In response to a Presidential-Declared disaster event, FEMA has the capability to draw on the resources of 27 Federal Agencies to provide disaster assistance. Additionally FEMA plays the most prominent role of all Federal agencies in disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation.

- For information about FEMA's disaster assistance call 1-800-621-FEMA
- For information about the National Flood Insurance Program 1-800-638-6620
- To order free FEMA publications call 1-800-480-2520.

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)

The EDEN Web site is <http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden/>

EDEN is a collaborative multi-state effort by State Extension Services across the country to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters. EDEN's major goals include:

- Sharing educational resources and technical expertise across state lines.
- Using electronic technology to develop, archive, update, transmit, and receive educational information.
- Establishing formal links for long-term collaboration with federal, state, and local Emergency Management agencies.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – National Weather Service (NOAA)

400 Parkway Road
Charleston, WV 25309
(304) 746-0180

The National Weather Service is responsible for keeping the public informed of potential weather-related disaster threats. This includes the issuance of river forecasts and flood warnings to the general public and specialized users as well as disseminating to media such as newspapers, radio and TV stations. The National Weather Service operates a NOAA weather radio that broadcasts 24 hours per day with local and regional weather forecasts. Storm Ready is a National Weather Service program to assist local governments in becoming more resistant to weather related disasters.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security coordinates all federal government activities that deal with terrorist prevention and protection. The department's efforts also extend to state and local governments for detection, preparedness, prevention, protection, response and recovery, and incident management.

The Citizen Corp

West Virginia Citizen Corps Council
4782 Chimney Drive
Charleston, WV 25302
304 965-2779

The mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. The Citizen Corps mission is accomplished through a national network of state and local Citizen Corps' Councils. These Councils build on community strengths to implement the Citizen Corps programs and they carry out a local strategy to encourage every American to participate. West Virginia has 18 County Councils and two Local Councils including:

- Berkeley County Citizen Corps Council
- Brooke County Citizen Corps
- Cabell County Citizen Corps Council
- Hancock County Citizen Corps Council
- Hardy County Citizen Corps Council
- Harrison County Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security
- Kanawha County, WV, Citizen Corps Council
- Marion County Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Marshall County Citizen Corps Council
- McDowell County LEPC/Citizen Corps Council
- Mercer County Citizen Council
- Monongalia County Citizen Corps Council
- Raleigh Co. LEPC/ Citizen Corps
- Randolph County LEPC/Citizen Corps Council
- Wheeling - Ohio County Citizen Corps Council
- Wirt County Citizen Corps Council
- Wood County Citizen Corps Council
- South Bluefield Neighborhood Association
- City of Charleston Citizen Corps Council

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community.

United States Army Corps of Engineers

US Army Corps of Engineers USAED Huntington
502 8th Street
Huntington, WV 25701
(304)-529-5211

The United States Army Corps of Engineers is known for its civil works projects for water resources development including flood control. Flood control measures may include dams, levees, floodwalls, and channel enlargements. Nonstructural projects feature flood proofing, floodplain evacuations and flood warning and emergency evacuation systems that are effective in reducing flood damages. West Virginia is divided among three Corps Districts:

- Pittsburgh (Cheat River, Tygart River, Monongahela River, and Ohio River)
- Huntington (Big Sandy River, Kanawha-New River, Little Kanawha River and Ohio River)
- Baltimore (Potomac River)

United States Department of Agriculture - West Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA)

P.O Box 1049
Morgantown, West Virginia 26507
(304) 284-4800

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) mission is to respond to disasters affecting the agricultural producers of West Virginia by:

- Completing damage assessment procedures to determine the extent and type of damage along with what programs may be available and/or requested.
- Implementing farm programs like the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) that will rehabilitate farmlands and restore farm structures to pre-existing conditions.
- Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program Payments to help stabilize farm income.
- Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) provides payments for qualified crop losses.
- Emergency Loans are low interest loans to provide funds needed to maintain the agricultural operations.

United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

75 High Street, Room 301
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 284- 7540

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has the authority to assist local sponsors who are undertaking activities for the purpose of flood prevention, water conservation, fish and wildlife development, recreation, groundwater recharge, water quality management, and land conservation. This includes providing technical, financial, and credit assistance to local sponsors representing the people living in small watersheds (less than 250,000 acres). That distinction delineates the authorities of the NRCS and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

NRCS has the authority to plan and implement a full spectrum of flood damage reduction measures including structural (dams, channel improvements, dikes, etc.), nonstructural (flood warning systems, floodplain acquisition, relocation, retrofitting structures, etc.), and more innovative projects such as natural stream restoration. NRCS's authorities are unique in that assistance can also be provided to address land conservation issues on both public and private lands that impact flooding.

West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA)

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0193
(304) 558-2204

The West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) has a state Office plus 14 district offices. Their function is to conduct surveys, investigations, and research relating to the character of soil erosion, floodwater, and sediment damage to the conservation, development, use, and disposal of water and the preventive and control measures needed. The Agency reviews and makes recommendations to the State Conservation Committee on all applications for assistance and final reports for all work carried out in the State under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act

West Virginia Division of Forestry (DOF)

Guthrie Center Building 13
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0180
(304) 558-2788

The Division of Forestry (DOF) is charged with the protection and management of all West Virginia forestland resources. The DOF issues hazard warnings about the dangers of wildfire in West Virginia and conducts public education and outreach. The DOF is responsible for suppression of all wildfires, except for U.S. Forest Service lands or national parks within state boundaries.

West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF)

814 Virginia Street East
Charleston, West Virginia 25301
(304) 345-6475

The West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF) plays an active role in post-disaster situations and provides post-disaster emergency housing in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The WVHDF prefers to relocate people permanently out of harm's way by providing better alternative housing; such as, locating alternative housing sites close to communities that are subject to repetitive flooding in advance and having development plans in place for modular housing units with underground water and sewer connections.

West Virginia National Guard

1703 Coonskin Drive
Charleston, West Virginia 25311
(304) 561-6414

The West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) is the only state agency with the capability of entering a disaster area with its own support in all critical areas – personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, and communications. At the request of the Governor, the National Guard provides support to a disaster event in the areas of information, life support, rescue, and recovery.

West Virginia State Police

143 Academy Drive
Dunbar, West Virginia 25064
(304) 767-3066

The West Virginia State Police (WVSP) is the State's chief law enforcement and investigative agency. The WVSP is well equipped to provide manpower, logistics, communications, and aid as an initial responder in an emergency or disaster situation. The WVSP has locations across West Virginia and can respond quickly to situations via ground and air units.

American Red Cross

American Red Cross Central West Virginia Chapter,
113 Lakeview Dr., Charleston,
WV 25313,
(304) 340-3650

The American Red Cross (ARC) responds to the immediate emergency needs of victims affected by all disasters. The ARC works with the communities and local emergency services personnel to establish shelters when necessary and provides for the basic emergency needs after a disaster has occurred (e.g. food, clothing, shelter, immediate physical health needs and mental health). When a single-family incident occurs, the ARC meets the basic needs of the victims but relies heavily on community support.

The ARC has as part of its primary mission, the education of the community to disasters. ARC chapters provide information on all phases of disaster planning, education in community schools, general information for public consumption, and disaster information for the business community.

The Salvation Army

Divisional Headquarters
814 Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
410-347-9944

The Salvation Army provides emergency assistance including mass and mobile feeding, temporary shelter, counseling, missing person services, medical assistance, and the warehousing and distribution of donated goods including food, clothing, and household items. It also provides referrals to government and private agencies for special services.

West Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (WVVOAD)

WVVOAD coordinates planning efforts by many voluntary organizations responding to disaster. Member organizations provide more effective and less duplication in service by getting together before disasters strike. Once disasters occur, NVOAD or an affiliated state VOAD encourages members and other voluntary agencies to convene on site.

World Vision in Appalachia

Philippi, WV
304-457-2971

World Vision trains and mobilizes community-based volunteers in major response and recovery activities; provides consultant services to local unaffiliated churches and Christian charities involved in locally-designed recovery projects; and collects, manages, and organizes community-based distribution for donated goods.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps; WVMAW, Inc
43 Downing Street
Charleston, WV 25311
304- 344-0760

PDA works primarily through Church World Service in providing volunteers to serve as disaster consultants and funding for local recovery projects that meet certain guidelines. This agency also provides trained volunteers who participate in the Cooperative Disaster Child Care program. On a local level, many Presbyterians provide volunteer labor and material assistance.

Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS)

MDS Binational Office
1018 Main St
Akron , PA 17501
Phone: (717) 859-2210
Fax: (717) 859-4910
binational@mds.mennonite.net

MDS assists disaster victims by providing volunteer personnel to clean up and remove debris from damaged and destroyed homes and personal property and to repair or rebuild homes. Special emphasis is placed on assisting those less able to help themselves, such as the elderly and handicapped.